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History of Canadian Wealth. By GUSTAVUS MYERS. Volume i. Chicago, Charles H. Kerr and Company, 1914.—vi, 337 pp.

It has often been stated in Canada—and stated without denial—that less than fifty men control more than one-third of the Dominion's material wealth, as expressed in railways, steamship lines, banks, factories and coal mines. It is apparently the aim of Mr. Myers in this volume to show to what extent this concentration of wealth has been brought about through corrupt politics, or at any rate by means of political influence. The first half of the book is concerned with the conditions under which wealth accrued to the Hudson's Bay Company and the ecclesiastical organizations, chiefly of the Province of Quebec. Neither the provincial legislatures, as they existed before Confederation, nor the Dominion Parliament as it has existed since 1867, had much to do with the enrichment of the Hudson's Bay Company, or the long-established ecclesiastical organizations of the old French province. But the same cannot be said of the wealth that since the union of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec in 1841 has accrued to dealers in politics, to jobbers in bank charters, to promoters of railways, to railway and government contractors, and to the promoters of mining and industrial enterprises which have benefited from the protection of the tariff and bounty laws in operation since 1858. With respect to all this, reckless or corrupt politics at Ottawa, and at some of the provincial capitals, have undoubtedly had their part, a part that is one of the most conspicuous facts in the history of Canada.

Mr. Myers's work is to be in two volumes. In the first volume he carries the story down only to 1891—the year in which the Langevin-McGreevy scandal startled and dismayed England, almost as much as did the Macdonald-Allan scandal of 1872-1873, over the contract for the Canadian Pacific Railway which brought about the downfall of Sir John Macdonald and the Conservatives at the general election in 1874. Mr. Myers has yet to treat of the protectionist and bounty legislation of the years from 1858 to 1910, and also of the political exploitation of the land, mining and forest resources of Canada that are controlled by the Dominion government, which went on during the Laurier administration from 1896 to 1911. It is a sordid story that Mr. Myers unfolds in his first volume—sordid almost to the degree of being sickening. But there is little in it that is new to students of Canadian political history since 1841; and with parliamentary documents of one kind or another, and court records to support him, Mr. Myers seldom

makes a statement for which he does not cite an accepted authority. One exception may be noted. More authority than a mere statement in a volume of reminiscences seems to be necessary to justify the resurrection of a rumor current in 1854, that Elgin, who was governor-general at that time paid off £80,000 of mortgages on his Scottish estates out of the proceeds of speculations which he had shared with Francis Hincks, who was minister of finance in the Hincks-Morin administration of 1851-1854.

EDWARD PORRITT.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

Recollections of Sixty Years. By SIR CHARLES TUPPER. New York, Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1914.—vii, 414 pp.

This volume contains eight photographs of the author—a fact that at once indicates the outstanding characteristic of the “*Recollections.*” It is frankly and aboundingly egoistical. It is, moreover, quite as frankly partisan. And it is almost as frankly pagan. For the stories of intrigue and political scandal are told as though they were things that did not matter, as though ethical standards the world over count for as little as they seem to have counted at Ottawa during the thirty-four or thirty-five years in which Sir Charles Tupper was active in Dominion politics. None the less, and largely because of these three characteristics, the “*Recollections*” is of more interest, and from some points of view of more value, than any other biography or autobiography of a Canadian statesman that has yet been published.

The book is valuable because of the light it throws on political conditions in Nova Scotia and the Maritime Provinces from the opening of Queen Victoria's reign to Confederation in 1867; because of its revelations of the circumstances attending the acceptance of Confederation in Nova Scotia and the collapse of the movement against it led by Joseph Howe; and because of the insight it gives into Dominion politics from 1867 until 1901, when Sir Charles Tupper retired from the leadership of what was then the Conservative opposition. One of the most informing chapters is that devoted to a lecture which Sir Charles delivered in 1860, on the “*Political Condition of British North America.*” As a description of conditions existing in the Provinces at that time this lecture is almost as interesting as the Earl of Durham's Report; and it would be difficult to name anything in print which describes better the conditions in the Maritime Provinces between 1840 and 1867.

As a contribution to the history of Confederation, the chief value of